



# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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21 OCTOBER 1966

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1. South Vietnam

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[redacted] Viet Cong leaders have ordered all weapons withdrawn from village guerrillas in coastal Binh Thuan Province at least until the end of the year. Recent US military activity in this area has demoralized the guerrillas, and there is concern that they will take their weapons and rally to the government side.

2. Laos

The revolt of the Laotian Air Force is over. General Ma and most of his pilots have flown to Thailand where they will be taken into what the Thais call "benevolent custody."

Ma never really had a chance in his effort to unhorse the Laotian general staff, with which he has been feuding since last spring. Despite his dramatic bombing of Vientiane this morning, he had no support from regional military commanders.

Ma's action, although not directly related to the recent shake-up in the neutralist military leadership, is a further indication of the fragile political situation in Laos.

3. Soviet Union

Moscow announced late this afternoon that the meeting of East European and other Communist leaders has ended. A bland communiqué speaks of "brotherly cordiality and friendship" and notes that the participants were shown "various examples of cosmic and military technology." Neither Vietnam nor China is mentioned.

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#### 4. NATO

De Gaulle appears likely to get his way on terms for negotiating the status of French forces in Germany. At a meeting of the Fourteen on Wednesday, all members caved in except the US, the UK, and the Dutch. Both the British and Dutch representatives are asking their home offices for instructions to go along with the majority.

France's tough position in recent NATO negotiations may be based on the belief that US policy is getting softer where Paris is concerned.

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#### 5. West Germany

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## 6. Communist China

Two more high-ranking officials have come under public attack by the Red Guards. Posters are now going up on Peking walls calling for the death of Foreign Minister Chen Yi and Party First Secretary Teng Hsiao-ping. However, the power struggle in the politburo appears so completely deadlocked that, for the moment, the yelping of the Red Guards seems to have little effect.

The attack on Chen Yi is the first reported on an official closely associated with the Chou En-lai - Lin Piao faction.

## 7. Syria



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